



**McGruff<sup>®</sup> and Faux Paw<sup>™</sup> are**



**“Taking a BYTE out of Internet Crime!”**

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Foreword by Richard Paul Evans



**The Techno Cat™**

***ADVENTURES IN THE INTERNET***

[iKeepSafe.org](http://iKeepSafe.org)





Hello, I'm Faux Paw the Techno Cat.





I used to live in the animal shelter, but not anymore. The governor rescued me. Now the state capitol building is my home.





I live in the governor's office where I'm an important part of the team. There's a big ball of yarn that I'm in charge of. And when the governor's had a tough day, I sit at his feet. I can tell he feels better.





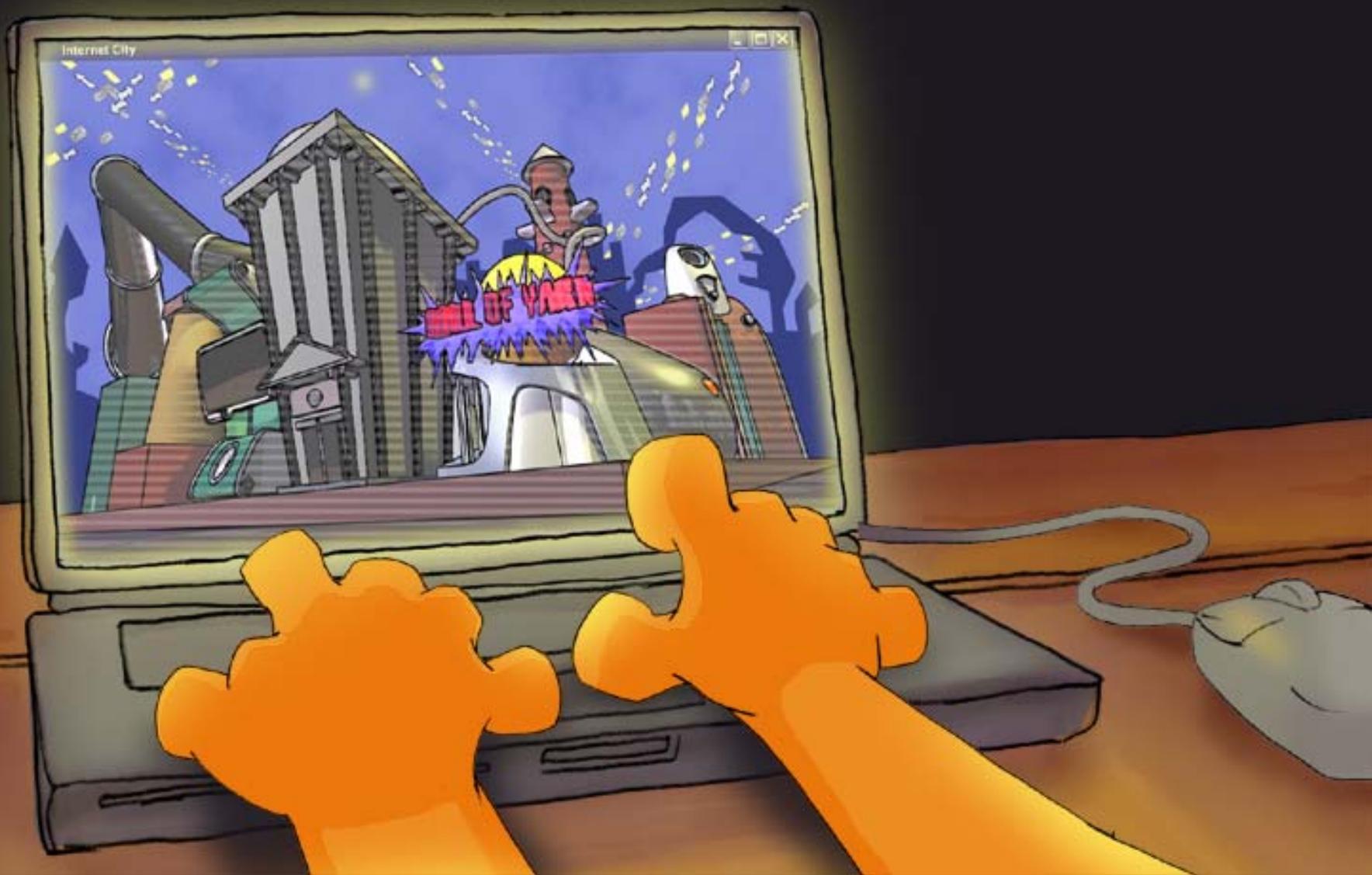
You say my name “foe-paw.” In France the word *faux pas* means mistake or false step, but I’m named Faux Paw because I have an extra toe on each of my front paws. (Get it?) Everybody makes *faux pas* sometimes, but let me tell you about a really big mistake I made.





It happened on the computer. Most people don't put cats and computers together, but I'm the Techno Cat for a good reason. I'm a computer whiz! At night when everyone goes home, the governor lets me use his laptop. I am sooo good at games.





One night I was cruising around Internet City using my favorite part of the computer—the mouse! LOL. (On the Internet, that means “laugh out loud.” Sometimes I even make myself LOL.)

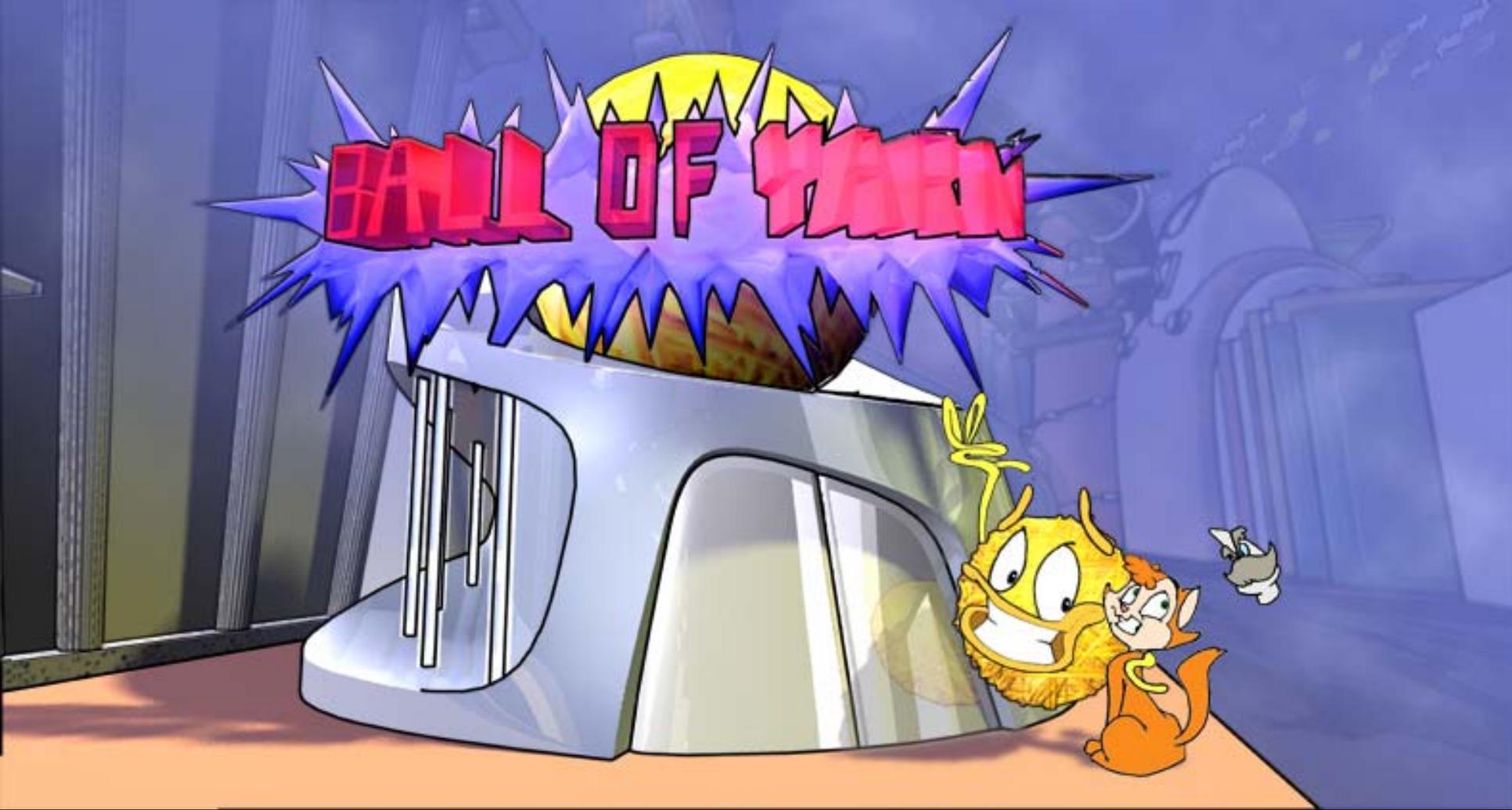




While I was mousing around, “I bumped into the governor’s old friend, Cursor. He and the governor work together all the time.

“Howdy, Faux Paw,” he said. “Don’t forget—the Internet is like a big city. Some places are safe, other places aren’t, and it’s important to know the difference.”





But how could I listen to Cursor? Right before my eyes was the Ball-of-Yarn Chat Room—a dream come true! Flashing signs, piles of yarn, free catnip giveaways! And . . .





... a new friend: Happy Fluffy Kittyface! Words just showed up on my screen. **“Hello, Faux Paw,”** she typed, **“I’m Happy Fluffy Kittyface. Wanna chat?”** So I typed back: **“Oh, Kittyface, I haven’t had anyone to talk to all day. Everyone’s so busy here.”**

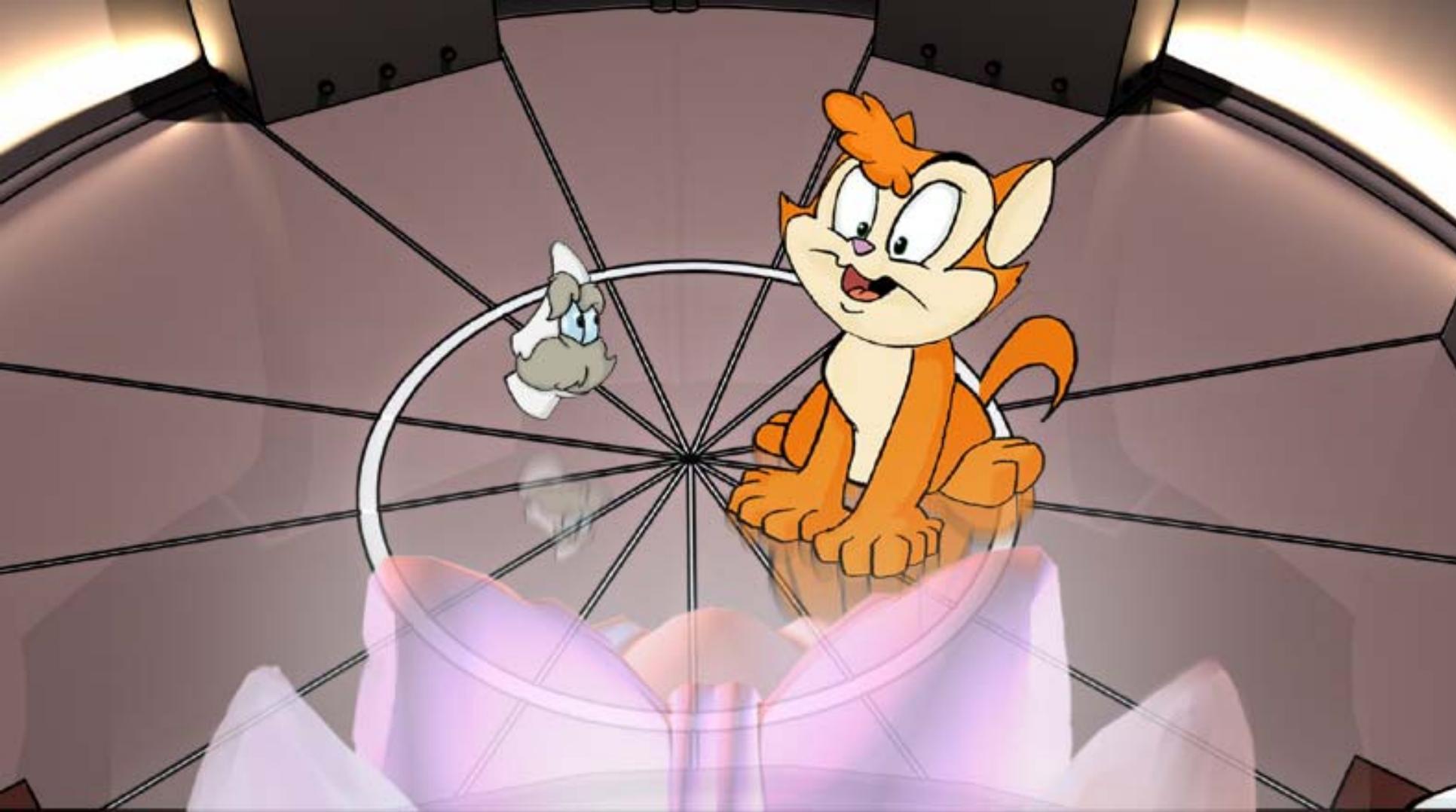




**“That’s okay,” she typed, “I’d love to be your Internet friend. I like to purr in the sunshine and play with yarn, how about you?”**

**“THAT’S MY FAVORITE THING IN ALL THE WORLD!” I shouted back.**



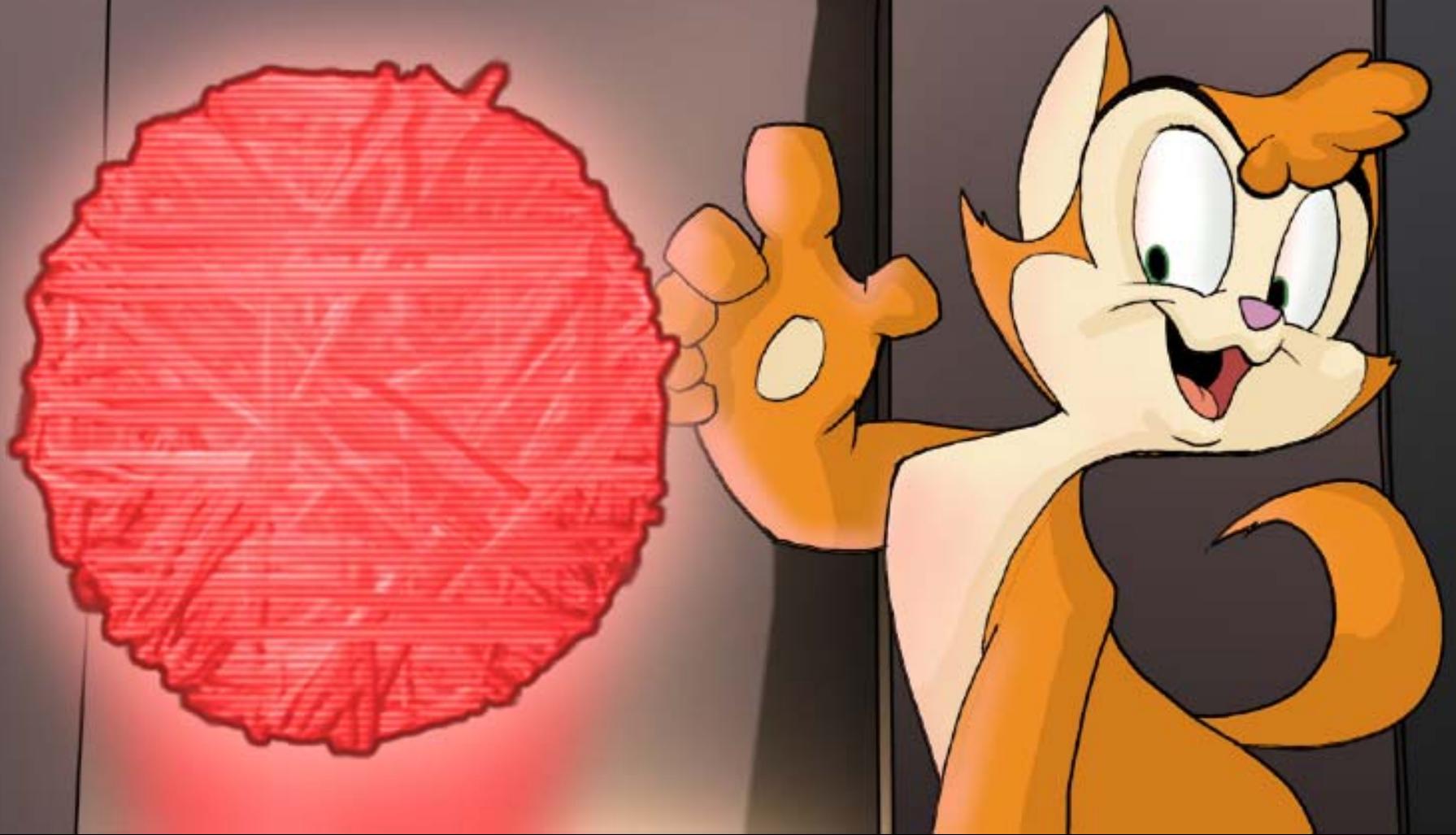


**“Faux Paw,” she asked, “maybe we go to the same school. Do you go to Meow-Meow Elementary?”**

I was about to tell her that I go to Cool Cats Elementary, but Cursor jumped in: “No, Faux Paw! Never tell anyone on the Internet the name of your school!”

“Silly Cursor,” I thought, “he loves to say things like that—he’s such a worrier.”

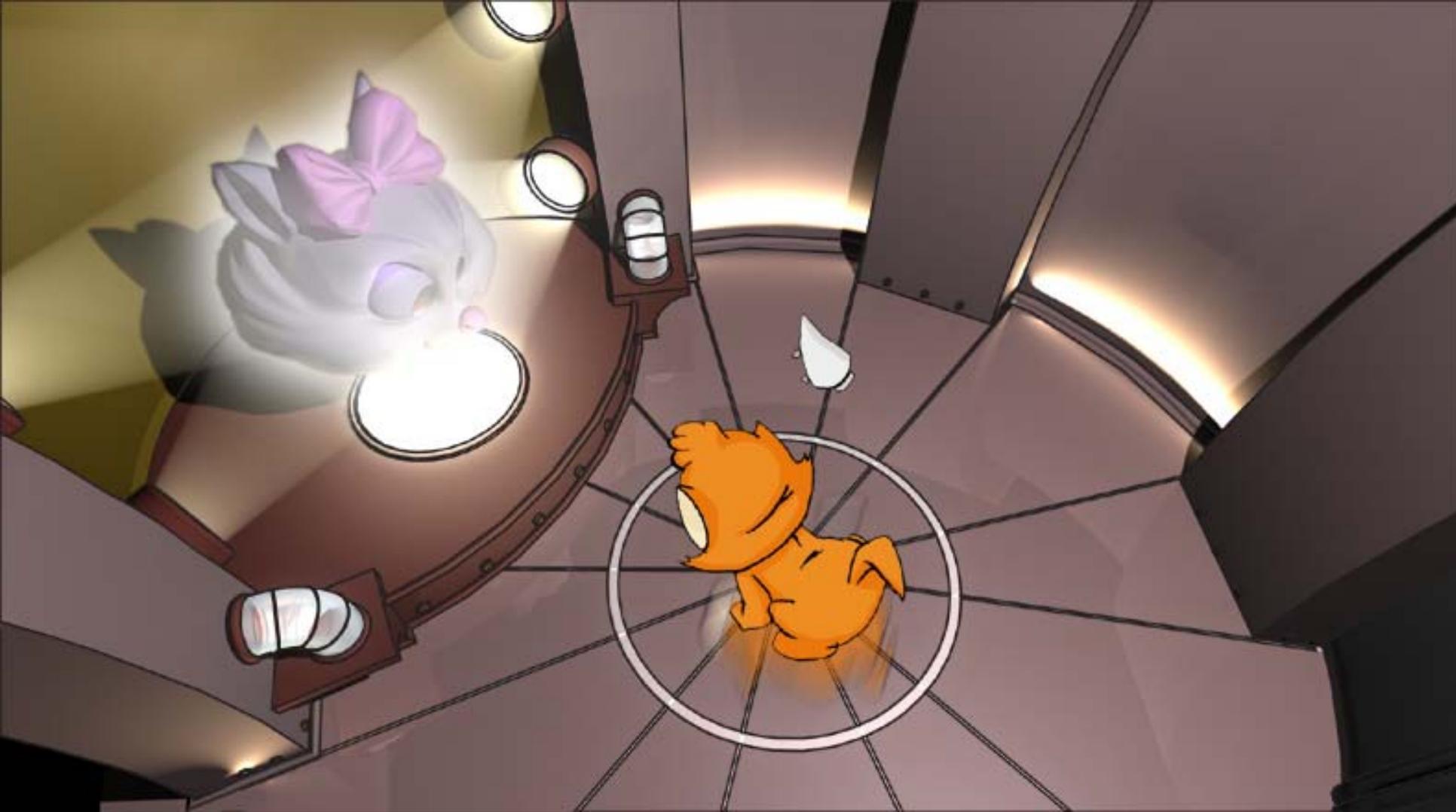




Luckily, Kittyface was still there. She typed, “Faux Paw, I have a new ball of yarn—bright red—wanna see it?”

“Oh, yes! I’d love to see your yarn,” I typed.





**“Let’s play,” she typed. “I’ll bring my yarn, and you bring yours. Maybe we can watch a movie. Where do you live?”**





Cursor was going crazy by now. “No, Faux Paw! he said. “Never give your name, address, phone number, the name of your school, or even a picture of yourself to anyone on the Internet.”

I thought, “Cursor just doesn’t understand—Happy Fluffy Kittyface is my friend.” So I kept typing: **“Let’s meet by the lamp post in front of the capitol building.”**





“Stop, Faux Paw! Never, *never* meet anyone you’ve found in a chat room!”  
But I thought I knew better than silly Cursor. “Sorry, Cursor, got to go. I have a new best friend to meet,” I said.  
“Faux Paw! I’m worried! I’d better alert the governor!” he said as I ran out the door.





When I got to the lamp post, it was a lot darker than I thought it would be.  
“Where’s Happy Fluffy Kittyface?” I thought.





I can't wait to show her my official pillow by the governor's desk and the candy machines in the basement. I wonder if her ball of yarn is bigger than mine."

. . . She sure is taking her time."





Then, a voice came from behind me. It wasn't a happy, fluffy voice.





It was a low, terrible growl. “Hullo, Faux Paw, I’m Happy Fluffy . . .





“ . . . Kittyface!”



I ran as fast as my four legs and twenty-two toes would carry me, but it wasn't fast enough!

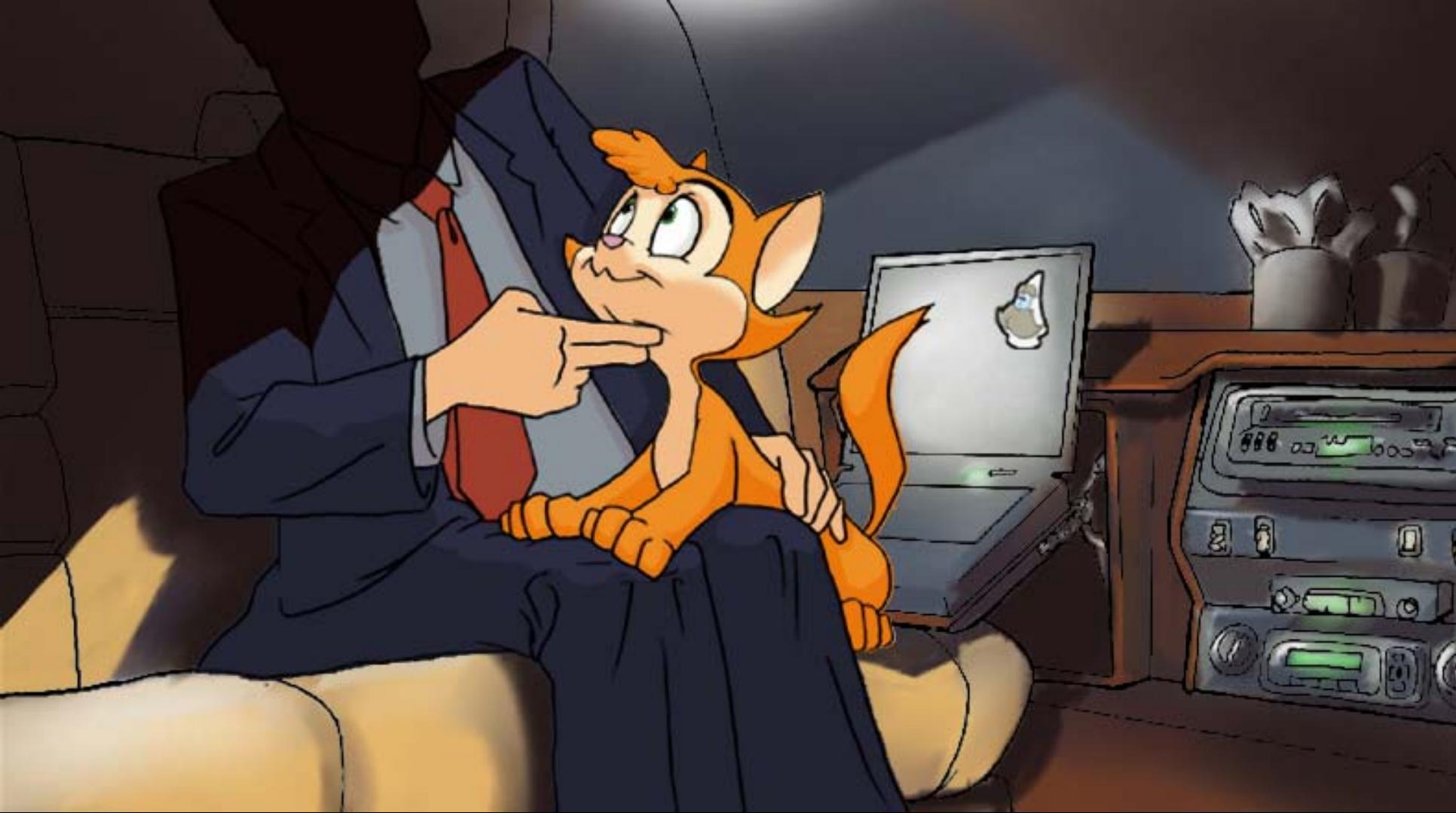
“Where can I hide? Somebody, help! Cursor!” I screamed.





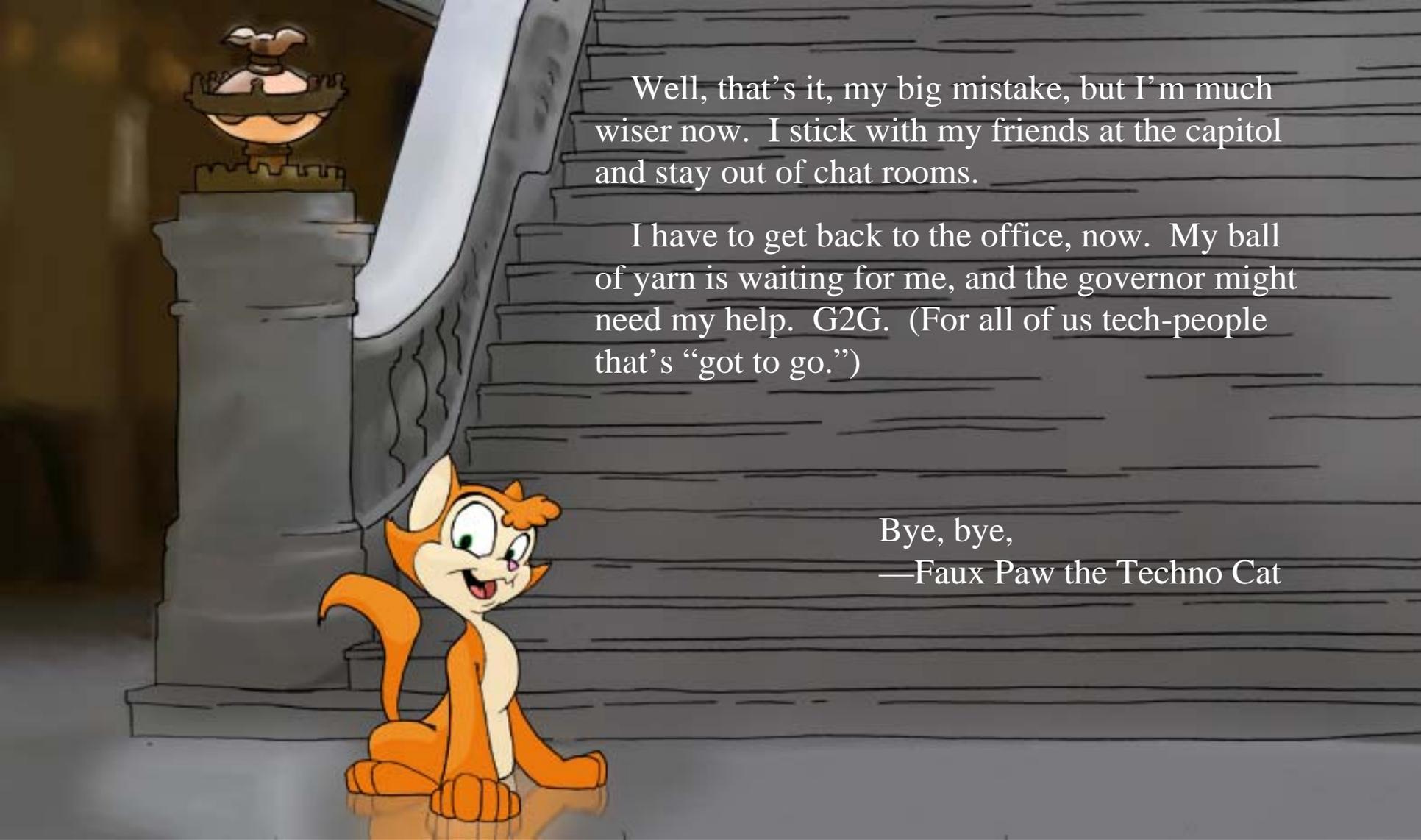
Just when I thought I was doomed, the governor's car screeched around the corner. He threw open the door and yelled, "Hurry, Faux Paw!" I jumped straight into the arms of the governor, someone I knew I could trust.





“Wow, am I glad to see you!” I said. “Kittyface almost ate me alive.”  
“You were lucky tonight, Faux Paw,” said the governor. “You’ve got a good friend in Cursor.”



A cartoon orange cat with a white chest and belly is sitting on a stone step. The cat has large green eyes and a wide, happy smile. To the left of the cat is a stone pillar topped with a fountain. In the background, there are stone steps leading up to a building.

Well, that's it, my big mistake, but I'm much wiser now. I stick with my friends at the capitol and stay out of chat rooms.

I have to get back to the office, now. My ball of yarn is waiting for me, and the governor might need my help. G2G. (For all of us tech-people that's "got to go.")

Bye, bye,  
—Faux Paw the Techno Cat

# The End

But keep going . . .



Howdy kids! I'm your friend, Cursor. Remember, the Internet is like a big city with great places to go, but you have to be careful. That's why we have three rules for Internet safety:

## **Keep Safe • Keep Away • Keep Telling<sup>SM</sup>**

**I Keep Safe my personal information—all of it!** I never give my real name, address, phone number, the name of my school, or a picture of myself to anyone online.

**I Keep Away from Internet strangers**— no matter what they tell me, because I have no way of knowing who they really are. I don't talk with them online, and I never meet them face-to-face.

**I Keep Telling my parents or a trusted adult about everything I see on the Internet.** I always tell them when something makes me uncomfortable.

. . . So long friends.



If you want to read more about Faux Paw the Techno Cat and Internet safety, check out the iKeepSafe website:

[www.iKeepSafe.org](http://www.iKeepSafe.org)<sup>SM</sup>





Keep Safe •

Keep Away •

Keep Telling<sup>SM</sup>



- PARENT RESOURCE CENTER
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- FOR EDUCATORS
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- YOUR STATE
- OUR PARTNERS
- ABOUT IKEEPSAFE

HOT TOPIC

### Do Your Children Chat?

AOL Consumer Advisor--Regina Lewis discusses tips to keep your children safe while they are online.



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# Activity 13



## See What I Know!

### I have learned so many things about Internet Safety!!!

Cut out words and pictures and glue them on to make your own Family Internet Safety Guide (Activity 11, p. 2).

**I Keep Telling** my parents.



**I do not open attachments.**



**I Keep Safe** my personal information.

# D.A.R.E.

**A good website to visit is:**



**I avoid pop-ups.**



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